

TRIBUTE TO GARRON LAMOREAU

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District. Garron Lamoreau will soon conclude his internship and head back to Eastern Oregon University to pursue his degree in History.

Mr. Speaker, Garron has been an excellent addition to my office. He arrived in Washington, D.C. just after the New Year, and has done a great job transitioning from recess to the current congressional "March Madness." He has not only handled his intern responsibilities efficiently, but has also received outstanding reviews on the Capitol tours he has provided for constituents and drafted correspondence to help me address the needs of district residents. My staff came to rely on Garron, and they knew that he would successfully tackle any task he was given. I'm sure his strong work ethic and intellectual curiosity will serve him well in any path he chooses to pursue.

Garron hails from La Grande, Oregon, a small town in my district along the Grand Ronde River. As the son of Union County Commissioner John Lamoreau and Nena Jones, politics is in his blood. He was valedictorian of his La Grande High School class despite graduating a year early. During his prep years he was a truly well-rounded student, excelling not only in his studies, but also as an athlete, playing basketball, soccer and running track, and as a member of the state championship choir. After graduation, Garron made the wise choice to attend my alma mater, the University of Oregon, where he has maintained a 3.9 GPA. Garron is transferring to Eastern Oregon University for the coming term, and plans to tour this summer with his band, Again United, singing lead vocals and playing the guitar.

Mr. Speaker, my office has been lucky to have an intern like Garron. His calm demeanor and dry sense of humor will truly be missed around the office, but I have no doubt that he has a bright future ahead of him. Best of luck, Garron, and keep up the good work.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ANDREW SHEPARD

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to Mr. Andrew Shepard, a lifelong California resident and dedicated community banker.

Last fall, Andrew Shepard retired after more than 53 years with Exchange Bank and Doyle Trust in Santa Rosa, California. In 1949, he joined Exchange Bank as a teller, receiving continual promotions through years of dedication and hard work. He served as Chief Executive Officer from 1969 until 1991, presiding over tremendous growth at the Bank and in-

creasing its asset size more than 800 percent. In 1991, Mr. Shepard was named Chairman of the Board.

In addition to his duties at Exchange Bank and Doyle Trust, Mr. Shepard has been an active leader in the banking industry. He served as President of the California Bankers Association and has held many positions with the American Bankers Association, including service on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer. Mr. Shepard is also a Past Chairman of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors Advisory Board.

He has received many honors in recognition of his leadership. In 1999, he was inducted into the Pacific Coast Banking School Hall of Fame, an elite group of 18 graduates of the School. In 1999, he received the California Human Development Corporation Aztec Award. For 3 years in a row (1986, 1987, and 1988), he was recognized by his peers and awarded the CEO—A Best Managed Independent Bank in Northern California honor.

One of Mr. Shepard's proudest achievements has been the support of Santa Rosa Junior College students. Since 1969, Exchange Bank and Doyle Trust have sponsored the education of countless students with donations of approximately \$47 million in scholarship funds. In 1993, Santa Rosa Junior College recognized Mr. Shepard's dedication to the school and presented him with the President's Medallion. Mr. Shepard has also served as the Chairman of the Santa Rosa United Way, a member of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Economic Advisory Committee, and a founding member of the Sonoma County Community Foundation. An enthusiastic outdoorsman, he has served as the CEO of Elktrout, Inc., for more than 2 decades and is the Past Chairman of the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

Any tribute to Mr. Shepard would be incomplete without mentioning his service to our country. During World War II, Mr. Shepard enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the 100th Infantry Division from 1943 to 1946. As a First Mortar Gunner, he saw combat in Europe and was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Upon his discharge, Mr. Shepard began his education at Stanford University, receiving a B.A. with Distinction in Economics in 1949. Later he graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School and the Advanced Management College at Stanford University.

Throughout his career, Andrew Shepard has been a dedicated advocate for his company, the banking industry at large, and his community. I thank him for his service, and send my best wishes on a wonderful retirement to him and his lovely wife, Mardi.

STANDING UP FOR OUR VETERANS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on an attack committed under cover of darkness and to praise our heroes who turned back that assault.

I am speaking of the dishonorable conduct of the members of this House, which at 3 o'clock in the morning on March 21 voted for

devastating cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs—totaling \$14 billion over 10 years—including cutting health care and compensation for disabled veterans. Under ordinary circumstances, this would simply be the wrong thing to do. But to cut this funding while hundreds of thousands of our soldiers—soon to be war veterans—are thousands of miles away fighting for our freedom, is hypocritical in the extreme and displays a shocking lack of gratitude for the sacrifice and selflessness of our troops.

I am proud to support our veterans. And I believe that in war and peace, we must show veterans the utmost respect. Many people come to this floor and say they respect our veterans and say that our veterans are their priority. However, I believe that a priority is only a priority when it is adequately funded. In other words, we need to put our money where our mouth is and give veterans the resources they need. It is particularly offensive that we are not giving veterans what they need and deserve in order to fund hundreds of billions of dollars of tax cuts which will disproportionately benefit the already very wealthy.

This assault on our veterans did not escape the notice of the vigilant veterans' watchdog groups. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans were outspoken in their opposition. I was particularly struck by the words of Edward R. Heath, Sr., National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, who said:

Cutting already under funded veterans' programs to offset the costs of tax cuts is indefensible and callous. It is unconscionable to cut benefits and services for disabled veterans at a time when we have thousands of our service members in harm's way fighting terrorism around the world and when we are sending thousands more of our sons and daughters to fight a war against Iraq.

Fortunately, thanks to the forceful opposition of veterans' groups and pressure from congressional advocates in Congress, I am optimistic we may not only prevent cuts to veterans programs, but possibly even increase funding. The Chairman of the House Budget Committee has reversed course and stated that he will follow the lead of the Senate, which has approved increases for veterans.

While I am encouraged by this change of heart, until the Chairman's words are enacted into law, it is vital that advocates for veterans remain vigilant and ensure he keeps his promise.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are watching, and the American people are watching. Now more than ever, let's show our troops that this Nation will always support them. Let's put actions ahead of words and make funding our veterans a real priority of this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DEBORAH A. YOW

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 2003, Ms. Deborah A. Yow, who is currently serving in her ninth year as director of athletics at the University of Maryland, will be inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established to honor Maryland women who